**THE BURDEN OF COPD IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE**

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**Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease**

**Clinical features**

- A **progressive life-threatening** lung disease;
- Causes **limitations in lung airflow**;
- Not curable disease;
- The **treatment** can relieve symptoms, improve quality of life and reduce the risk of death.

- Substantial and increasing **social and economic implications** in the modern society.
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Epidemiological issues

- Expected to become the 3rd leading cause of mortality worldwide in 2030;
- Its prevalence varies across countries;
- Insufficient officially published epidemiological data in some countries;
- Further epidemiological studies should be conducted.

Economic burden

- Costly disease;
- Significant economic burden;
- Its direct and indirect costs present a large share of the total health care expenditure.
- The costs are placed on the 7th position in the world;
- Exacerbations and concomitant diseases are important factors in the progression of the disease;
- Increasing direct medical and nonmedical costs;
- The higher the severity of COPD and exacerbation rates, the higher the health care resources utilization, number of hospitalizations and hospital cost.
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

In conclusion

- An increasing need of performing economic evaluation on COPD especially in the conditions of innovative inhalation technologies;

- The results of patients’ compliance studies could be used for the purposes of making more precise and valuable economic evaluations.